THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

VOLUME VII. NO. 39. BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1890. PRICE FIVE CENTS

The Bloomfield Citizen.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

ISSUED BY THE

Bloomfield Publishing Company,

AT

BLOOMFIELD, ESSEX COUNTY, N. J.

Entered at the Post Office at Bloomfield as Second Class Matter.

Office on Broad St., near the Post Office.

TERMS { One copy 1 year ..... $2.00 / One copy 6 months ..... 1.00 / One copy 3 months ..... .50

Subscriptions payable in advance.

S. Morris Bulis, Publisher.

THE OLD MUSIC BOOK.

I turn with silent reverence
Its unknown pages o'er;
The dusty lines inspire a sense
Of something heard before,
In days long past, in other lands;
Of ancient melodies;
Old harpsichords, and gentle hands
That touched the ivory keys.

The look a hundred fancies wears
On every yellow page,
Some quaint spinet, forgotten airs,
The notes all dim with age,
And variations long worn out,
And faded songs and old,
With trills and turnings all about,
And graces manifold.

Perchance in those old bygone days
My lady sat and played
In brocaded stomacher of maize,
And flowered blue brocade,
Her lissome fingers dancing ran,
Through many a florid strain,
Until Miss Bell behind her fan
Begged "that sweet piece again."

Perchance when summer nights were long,
And soft winds swept the meadows,
Some amorous youth poured out this song
To Chloe through the shadows.
Or beaux and belles of higher state,
In some well lit pavilion,
Trod graceful through this minuet,
Or figured this cotillion.

So vagrant fancies through the mind
Play fitful now and then,
As with a smile and sigh combined,
I close the book again.
I dare not touch its music old
In this rude modern day;
Hallowed by fingers long since cold,
And voices passed away.
—Globe-Democrat.

Charles Lamb's Writings.

The writings of Charles Lamb are an excellent illustration of the value of reserve in literature. Below his quiet, his quaintness, his humor and what may seem the slightness, the occasional or accidental character of his work, there lies, as in his life, a genuinely tragic element. The gloom reflected at its darkest in those hard shadows of "Rosamund Gray" is always there, though not always realized either for himself or his readers, and restrained always in utterance. It gives to those lighter matters on the surface of life and literature among which he for the most part moved a wonderful force of expression, as if at any moment these slight words and fancies might pierce very far into the deeper soul of things.

In his writing, as in his life, that quiet is not the low flying of one from the first drowsy by choice, and needing the prick of some strong passion or worldly ambition to stimulate him into all the energy of which he is capable, but rather the reaction of nature after an escape from fate, dark and insane as in old Greek tragedy following upon which the sense of mere relief becomes a kind of passion, as with one who, having narrowly escaped earthquake or shipwreck, finds a thing for grateful tears in just sitting quiet at home, under the wall, till the end of days.—Walter Pater.

Consulting the Stars.

It is strange that many persons yet confound astronomy with astrology, a result of the undue importance which personal and private interests have over scientific principles in the thoughts of many persons. Not many weeks ago we received a letter from a subscriber who wished to be informed where he could find a text book of astrology.

It is said that the astronomer royal, who has charge of Greenwich observatory, frequently receives letters asking what his terms are for drawing a horoscope. The writers of these letters often promise to make known, if necessary, the true day and hour of their birth. Such incidents call to mind a story told of Herschel, the astronomer.

During a very rainy season a farmer in his neighborhood came to ask his opinion, or rather the opinion of the stars, as to the day that would best suit for making his hay without any fear of losing it by showers.

The great astronomer led the man to a window and pointed with his finger to a meadow where the grass had been mowed and was rotting in the wet.

"You see that field," said he. "Well, it is mine. Isn't that enough to show you that as regards rain and fine weather I am not a bit more of a conjurer than any of my neighbors?"—Youth's Companion.

A Steer in the House.

A drove of Texas cattle were being driven across the railroad tracks near the Martell house. One of the drove, a large steer, became separated from the others and ran down the tracks into the Vandalia yards. Being close pressed by William Little, the driver, the steer mounted the outside stairs of a two story tenement house situated close to the round house, and entered the kitchen and took possession. Mrs. A. O. Hanney, with her baby in her arms, had just time to escape by a back stairway and save the life of herself and child. The infuriated steer upset the kitchen table, smashed the dishes, broke the chairs and other furniture, and overturned the stove. The driver mounted the stairs and, after some difficulty, managed to get a ring in the animal's nose, but it broke and was useless. The animal, after having completely wrecked the room, leisurely descended the stairs and was captured.—St. Louis Republic.

Coal for the West Indies.

The import of coal from the United States to the port of Havana during 1888 is stated to have amounted to 97,547 tons as against 58,255 tons in 1887, and that from Great Britain to 50,378 as against 71,813 tons. Thus the American import exceeded the average of the last ten years, which is calculated at 84,000 tons, while the import from Great Britain fell far short of its average of 80,000 tons. That a further alteration in the relative proportions of the coal imports from Great Britain and the United States may take place is not improbable. American speculators are arranging for large shipments of coal from the Alabama mines to Cuba and other West Indian islands. Should this enterprise prove successful, the effect on British trade would be most unfavorable, as it would obviously be difficult for British exporters to compete with Americans in the matter of freights.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

A Greedy Horse—The End of an Exasperating Mule—A Bull's Vengeance.

A Scranton man owned a lank bay horse that stood nearly nineteen hands high. The long legged animal devoured great quantities of food, and after the Scranton man had made several unsuccessful efforts to sell him or trade him off, he got a Waverly farmer to winter the horse at a stated price. In the course of six weeks the voracious horse had devoured a whole stack of hay, and the Waverly man became frantic. He straightway came to Scranton and told the owner of the horse that the greedy beast would ruin him financially before spring, and he begged the man to take the horse away at once, agreeing to take $40 a ton for all the hay the horse had eaten and say no more about it. There was a good deal of the milk of human kindness in the heart of the horse, and he made the disheartened farmer feel happy by removing the horse the next day.

The bay nag was an elephant on the Scranton man's hands for a while, but eventually he traded it off for a pair of mare mules that he didn't know anything about. One of the mules proved to be a very gentle and docile creature, while the other soon convinced her owner that she had been foaled and raised right in the center of the village of Kickerville, as he expressed it. The man quickly concluded that it wouldn't do to keep the mules together, and so he sold the gentle mule for $175. The bad mule, whose name was Jen, was as big an elephant on his hands as the tall horse had been, and how to dispose of her honorably racked his brain for months, he said.

Jen was sleek and handsome, but she would kick everything to pieces that was hitched to her. In the stall she was as gentle as a kitten until some one undertook to throw a harness over her back. Then her feet flew, and the harness and the man who tried to put it on her didn't stay there long. Jen wouldn't let any one ride her, either. Several smart young men tried to get on her back in the stall, but Jen's hind feet flew so fast and furiously, and her rump bobbed up at such a rapid rate, that the young men were glad to go to another part of the stable and reflect for a while.

Along in the summer an unusually active young chap offered to bet Jen's owner that he could ride the mule five blocks on one of the business avenues. "I'll bet you $5 you can't," the man told the spry fellow, and the money was put up at once. All that the young man wanted on Jen when he rode her was a blind bridle and a surcingle, and pretty soon Jen was led out on the street in sight of a crowd that didn't get very near her heels. The athletic chap seized the bridle reins in his left hand, grasped the surcingle on Jen's back with his right, and spoke kindly to the mule.

Jen was standing still then, but the expression in her moving ears, her owner said, told him as plainly as words that the old Harry would soon be to pay. With a spring the young man leaped to Jen's back, and at the same instant Jen's hind legs began to play like drum sticks, while her head went down, and the athlete was astride of her neck. Between kicks Jen whirled around a dozen times within a circle of twenty feet, and then made a dash for the open door of a grocery, in front of which a low awning extended over the sidewalk. Her would be rider saw his danger, and grabbed the eaves of the awning with both hands, and Jen kited into the grocery and began to eat apples out of a barrel. He was the last person who tried to ride her.

In the fall Jen met a tragic fate on the Delaware and Hudson canal, just below Honesdale. The man who put her on the canal knew all about her habits, and had agreed to pay $150 for her if he could make her work. He hitched her behind three other mules, and in going less than half a mile Jen threw herself into the canal seventeen times. That exasperated her driver to the highest pitch. The butt of his whip was loaded with lead, and as Jen lay kicking on the ground, he hit her with the loaded butt, crushed her skull and killed her.

A wealthy coal mine operator in the Lackawanna valley owned a 6-year-old Holstein bull that was cross and vicious. Generally the bull was tied with a rope in a yard by himself, but occasionally he was allowed to run loose in a yard with a lot of idle mine mules. The two yards joined, and one day four or five of the mules got in the yard where the bull was tied up and began to act mischievously around him. The barn keeper saw one of them nip the bull on the flank and cut up other playful capers. The bull didn't like to be played with, but one mule in particular seemed to take delight in teasing him. After a while the old bull got bellowing mad, and the barn keeper drove the mules out and put up the bars.

A few days after that the bull was let loose in the mule yard. He began to nose around a manure heap, apparently as contented as could be, while several of the mules nibbled straw on either side of him. At his right stood the mule that had teased him a few days before. The barn man was watching them. All at once, without a bit of warning, the bull made a vicious lunge at the mule on his right, and thrust one of his horns deep into its left side. The mule died in no time, and when they cut it open they found that the bull's horn had pierced the center of its heart. After that the bull tried to kill two men, and he got to be so dangerous that the owner had him shot.—Scranton (Pa.) Letter.

According to the eminent physiologist Snipes, the stomach contains 5,000,000 glands by which the gastric juice is secreted, and a few others which secrete only mucus.

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Notice is hereby given that George E. Sutton of the City of Orange, in the County of Essex and State of New Jersey, both this day made an assignment to the undersigned of his estate, for the equal benefit of his creditors, and that the said creditors must exhibit their respective claims, under oath or affirmation, to the subscriber, at his office, No. 748 Broad street, Newark, N. J.

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